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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Comments on Draft Outline Plan for Psychological Exploitation of Stalin's Death

1. Subject plan will be considered as item 1 of the agenda for the informal meeting of the PSB to be held 19 March 1953. The following are staff comments thereon:

a. It is suggested that the following assumptions be added to those already listed on page 3 of the plan:

(1) It is assumed that the new Soviet leadership is acting within the framework of a comprehensive plan designed to assure the orderly transfer of power after Stalin's death.

(2) It is assumed that within the framework of such a plan, the new Soviet regime will initiate a series of provocative military, diplomatic, psychological and economic warfare measures, short of starting a general war, designed to throw off balance Western efforts to interfere with or impede the consolidation of the regime's power.

(3) It is assumed that the new Soviet regime will undertake specific measures designed to test the reaction of the West to the new regime. These measures will be aimed at exacerbating the disunity of the West and preventing the formation of a united Western effort against the new Soviet leadership.

(4) Finally, it is assumed that the new Soviet regime will make tactical peace overtures to the West for the purpose of exploiting the neutralist sentiment in many countries and gaining the time required for consolidation of its rule.

b. It is suggested that the following aims be added to version B on page 6 of the plan:

(1) To resist and unmask vigorously any new false peace campaign.

(2) To combat wishful thinking in the free world as to the weakness of Communism.

(3) To react resolutely to any new aggression.

c. On page 11, 1.b.,

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c. On page 11, l.b., there is the statement that "the major hope of fulfilling the aims of this plan lies in substantive Government acts of psychological significance." However, there is little in the paper beyond the proposed speech of the President that defines the specific action which will have psychological significance. CIA feels that its covert activities should be developed in support of a national plan involving broad military, economic and political decisions.



FRANK G. WISNER
Deputy Director (Plans)

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